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OTE 81-3703

13 February 1981

MEMORANDUM FOR: [REDACTED] III, O/DCI  
FROM: [REDACTED] Chief, Language School/TE  
SUBJECT: CIA Language Training

1. I am enclosing a first draft of the Language Development Committee (LDC) report which is now in the hands of the LDC members for corrections, comments, additions, etc. I ask that you use it only for purposes of your report without attribution. The report is sent each year to the DDCI after the coordination process is completed; we would be in an awkward position if it were publicized prematurely.

2. As I told you on the telephone, we do not maintain records by occupation of students trained; the best help I can give is to refer you to the Fulfillment of Unit Language Requirements (ULR) section of the report. That information combined with Chart 2 in the NAPA report is the depth of detail available to us. Mr. [REDACTED], the Senior Training Officer in the Operations Directorate might be able to refine the information to some degree.

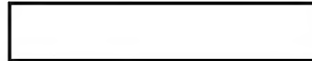
3. Unit Language Requirements are defined on page 9 of the LDC report and fulfillment figures by directorate are listed, beginning on page 12.

4. The Language School maintains records of man-hours expended in training by language and by the number of full-time and part-time students. Our effort is the same whether we teach a Chief of Station or a clerk and we do not discriminate by occupation. The total student days expended in language training in FY 80 amounted to 19,936 (159,488 student hours).

5. We cannot supply you with instances of training for those under non-official cover. We often are sent students who enroll in alias, receive language training, and then reassume their identity. The only inference we can make is six instances of safehouse training in FY 80 which were probably NOCs. We don't ask and the EDO does not tell us.

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6. Page 35 of the LDC report shows the number of students by directorate who completed more than ten hours of training in the Language School. Language training at non-CIA facilities is summarized on the same page. We did no training at NSA, DLI (Monterey), or the FBI. The latter teaches only Spanish.



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Attachments

DDA/OTE/LS/ [redacted] (13 February 1981)

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### Assessment of Non-Government Language Teaching Entities

Past experience of the Language School shows that a student of a Group I language (e.g., French or Spanish) would need to spend 24 weeks or 960 hours in a full-time language class of no more than 2-5 students in order to achieve a level 3 or minimum professional proficiency speaking capability. In the most difficult languages more than twice that amount of time would be needed.

Following is a brief summary of the Language School evaluation of instruction available at selected non-government facilities.

The single most striking deficiency in all of these programs is the limited number of hours of instruction provided, resulting in low levels of achievement. A less obvious but nevertheless significant limitation of these programs is the dearth of materials and instructional experience to teach for higher levels of proficiency. Also none of these institutions provides instruction specifically geared to the needs of this Agency.

Instructor qualifications are unspecified and supervision is unsystematic or absent. Commercial schools usually hire native speakers of the language who have not been trained in teaching. Adult education programs are often taught by retired or moonlighting high school teachers who are usually not native speakers. At the university level, instruction is generally done by a graduate student or a professor of literature. The variability of tutorial instruction precludes any meaningful assessment.

Attached is a brief chart summarizing some key features of available non-government language teaching options.

Non-Government Language Teaching Options

<u>Sponsoring Institution</u>	<u>Length of Training</u>	<u>Hours of Instruction</u>	<u>Class Size</u>	<u>Job-related Training</u>	<u>Proficiency Attained</u>
Adult Education	Semester	45 hours	15-30	No	0+
University	Semester	60 hours	20-30	No	0+
Commercial (e.g., Alliance- Francaise, Berlitz, etc.)	Variable	Variable (usually less than 100 hours)	2-30	No	1+
Tutorial	Variable	Variable (usually very short)	1	Possibly if tutor is willing	?